



Romulus News

APRIL 2, 2004 – APRIL 15, 2004

"the little paper"

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 18

Timely Tidbits ...

RHS Drama Club Presents *Dream*

The Romulus High School Drama Club is excited to announce that its first production – *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – will be presented in the school auditorium this weekend. Performances of the Shakespearean comedy, adapted by Lindsay Price, will be given at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 2, and Saturday, April 3, as well as at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 4.

Tickets – \$4 for adults; \$3 for students and senior citizens – will be available at the door.

Romulus High School is located at 9650 South Wayne Road, just north of I-94.

Reading Fair Set

Romulus parents and their children, infants to five years of age, are invited to attend a free Preschoolers Reading Fair at the Romulus Public Library (11121 South Wayne Road) on Saturday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The event – cosponsored by the Library, the Romulus Community Schools, and Great Parents, Great Start of Wayne – will feature free books for all preschool participants, reading time with familiar public figures, refreshments, a raffle, and educational materials with tips on how parents can help their children become better readers.

Citywide Rummage Sale Permits Available

Are you planning to take part in Romulus's enormously popular Citywide Rummage Sale? Free permits for the annual event – set for Thursday, May 20, through Sunday, May 23 – are now available at the Romulus Recreation Department, located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus.

Although permits will be available until the event begins, residents must register by Friday, April 30, to be included in flyers and newspaper ads promoting sale locations.

For more information, please call 734-942-6852. □

Judge Oakley Announces Bid for Re-election

Judge Brian A. Oakley of the 34th District Court has formally announced his intention to seek re-election in November 2004. Oakley was first elected to the court – which serves the cities of Belleville and Romulus as well as the townships of Huron, Sumpter, and Van Buren – in November 1998, and is currently completing his first term on the bench.

"Judge Oakley has served the people of our area with distinction since January 1999," said State Senator Raymond E. Basham, who has already announced his support for Oakley's second term.

"As an innovator who constantly seeks a better 'mousetrap,'" Basham continued, "Judge Oakley has been instrumental in the implementation of several new programs at the court. These programs include the Juvenile Justice Program, which allows many youthful offenders to be closely monitored locally, rather than having cases sent downtown to an overburdened County Juvenile Program.

"Judge Oakley, along with area educators, has also developed an at-court suspension program. This program allows schools and parents to 'sentence' a child to a day in court when the only other alternative is a suspension from

school and a 'free' day at home."

Oakley feels that, as a husband and father, he understands the many problems faced by today's families.

"I always encourage youthful offenders to stay in school and work hard," the judge noted. "Education is the key that opens life's doors. I am constantly telling kids that more education equals greater opportunities."

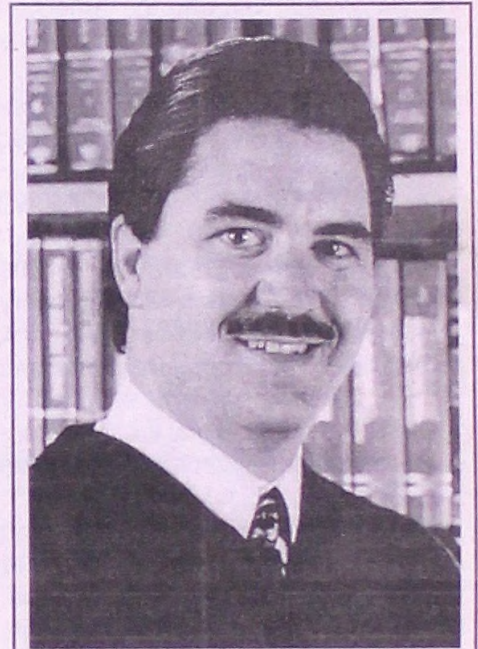
Oakley also believes that courtroom observers soon notice that he truly cares about people and their problems.

"I treat everyone with respect and dignity," he explained. "Any of us can make mistakes and have bad things happen in our lives. But I cannot abide a liar or someone who will not try to improve their situation."

This philosophy, Oakley says, is a simple one that comes out repeatedly in court.

"Take care of business; do what you have to do to stay out of trouble and work toward your goals," he stated. "Do that, and life stays simple – not easy, maybe, but simple."

Joining Basham in his endorsement of Oakley are a number of other elected officials, unions, and law-enforcement groups. According to Oakley, his supporters include State Senator Bruce Patterson; State Representatives Hoon-



Judge Brian A. Oakley

Yung Hoppood, Philip LaJoy, and Kathleen Law; and council/board representatives from each of the five communities within the court's jurisdiction, as well as the Michigan Police Officers Association and various local POAs.

"Although this is a nonpartisan election, Judge Oakley's support spans both party lines," said Basham. "Obviously, this is a vote of confidence for a job well done." □

City Refutes Allegations of \$7-million Debt

By Kristi Stephens

A March 16 *Detroit News* article alleging that Romulus owes the State of Michigan as much as \$7 million in back taxes drew sharp criticism from City officials attending the March 22 meeting of the Romulus City Council.

The article – which stated, in part, "The city is negotiating a settlement for \$2.5 million in state tax revenues that the city mistakenly spent on local development projects" – was roundly dismissed as "grossly inaccurate."

CPA Frank Audia, representing the City's auditing firm of Plante & Moran, PLLC, addressed the Council regarding the article's assertions.

"The issue involves Tax Increment Finance monies," began Audia, who explained that the law regarding these funds changed with the passage of Proposal A in 1994. "[The law] essentially said that your Tax Increment districts can only capture school taxes if you

have an eligible obligation outstanding. Effectively what that means is if you've issued bonded debt – if your TIFA [Tax Increment Finance Authority] has or your DDA [Downtown Development Authority] has – then you can keep the school taxes, but only up to that amount. That's all that you're entitled to keep. And ... Romulus did that.

"Beginning in 1998, the amount of your capture began to exceed what the eligible debt obligation was," Audia continued. "Romulus filed the appropriate reports with the State of Michigan, notifying the State what your captures were, what you were eligible to capture, and what the difference was.

"Romulus has always maintained that it had additional monies that needed to be returned, and those monies were always, *always* segregated from the operating funds of the TIFAs, escrowed for the day when the State and Romulus could agree how those monies should

be returned," said Audia. "I have with me tonight the audit reports, dating back to 1998, which show that the money was in your bank account and the liability was on your balance sheet."

According to Audia, the dispute began when Sharon Erwine, the State staff member then responsible for reviewing the municipalities' reports, incorrectly determined that Romulus owed \$7 million rather than the \$2.4 million calculated by the City.

"All along, the City maintained that it owed approximately \$2.4 million, and the matter could not be resolved," Audia explained. "[It] just went on and went on and went on.

"Well," he continued, "last year, Sharon Erwine retired and a new administration came into the Department of the Treasury, and the mandate of the new administration was to clean up these outstanding matters."

continued on page 2

Letter to the Editor

City Receives Defibrillator Donation

To the Editor:

An automated external defibrillator, commonly called AED, was donated last month to the City of Romulus from Henry Ford Health System, in conjunction with Medtronic and the American Heart Association. This unit will be placed in a first response vehicle.

Why is this gift so important to your community? Every year in the United States, nearly 250,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest. While CPR will keep oxygen circulating, a defibrillator is the only chance of survival for the majority of these victims. For every minute that passes without treatment, the victim's chance of survival decreases by 10%. Since time is of the essence for these victims, it is crucial that all potential medical first responders be equipped with lifesaving AEDs.

The timely application of CPR and use of AEDs helps save thousands of lives each year in the United States. Better understanding of CPR can help save more lives. People interested in learning CPR may contact the American Heart Association at 800-968-1793 or visit www.cpr-ecc.americanheart.org.

We want to thank Henry Ford Health System and Medtronic for their dedication to Romulus. Also, thank you to Romulus Fire Chief David Allison, his staff, and other City employees who are able to partner with us to provide quality care for Romulus residents.

Sincerely,
Thomas H. Ritter
chairman
Metro Detroit Board of Directors

* * *

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily shared by the staff of "the little paper." For more information, please call 734-941-1907. □

Allegations of \$7-million Debt Refuted

continued from page 1

When the new administration took office, said Audia, it contacted Romulus to resolve the dispute.

"Last September, City staff and I were extended the invitation to participate in a meeting in the Department of Treasury's office, where the determination reports that were prepared by [Erwine] were the subject of discussion," stated Audia. "The new deputy state treasurer, Cynthia Faulhaber, quickly determined that the findings of the State were *incorrect* ...

"Appropriately, she asked Romulus to do a little bit more due diligence to bear out its case – and, in fact, that happened; we met with the Treasury again in the fall, and provided all of our information for their review ... In January of 2004, the matter was presented to the State Tax Commission, who, in fact, decided that you were right: you only owed \$2.4 million."

Again, Audia assured the Council: "All that time, the money that the City had maintained – that it knew that it owed – was *never* spent on any projects, was appropriately segregated, and good accounting was followed. ... If you check with the Department of Treasury, you will find those facts to be corroborated.

"So," he concluded, "the [Detroit News] article, unfortunately, is *grossly* inaccurate."

After receiving Audia's confirmation that the State has, indeed, been paid the \$2.4 million owed, Councilman Michael Prybyla stated, "I want to thank you and the Treasurer's Office and [Romulus finance director] Debbie Hoffman's office for doing more than their job in keeping these monies on the safe side so that we didn't get into any trouble. I appreciate your work."

Councilman LeRoy Burcroff added, "It makes me feel good that we have one very competent City staff to work with. ... When you get into situations like this ... we can't control what the papers are going to write. But if we do the right thing and we follow the law, the truth is always going to prevail."

City Council Sends Environmental Resolution to Congress

Other actions taken during the Council's March 22 meeting included the adoption of a resolution urging Congress to revisit the permitting process currently used by the Environmental Protection Agency. The motion was initiated by Councilwoman Debbie Romak, who expressed her displeasure with the EPA's recent determination that Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc., can safely dispose of certain types of hazardous waste in two deep injection wells in Romulus.

"The EPA Region 5's decision ... was very disturbing, but not shocking," Romak said. "The EPA only considers scientific criteria upon issuing a permit.

Our valid, legitimate concerns brought forth during the public hearings fell outside of the EPA's review."

Calling the EPA ruling "outrageous," she added, "[A] decision made without citizens' input is not *ever* in the public's best interest. Our message to Congress should be that municipalities' and citizens' concerns must become part of the EPA's review process. Public input is as equally important as the required scientific criteria. ...

"There still needs to be so much work done on the federal level to make sure that municipalities are included before a decision is made by the EPA," said the councilwoman. "I would like ... to send the message to Congress that we have to have the ability to take part; that this is bigger than the science and everything else."

Romak's motion, seconded by Councilman Bill Wadsworth, was unanimously adopted.

Wadsworth "Disappointed" by Big Businesses' Lack of Support

Following Romulus High School senior Kristina Camilleri's discussion about her recent efforts to raise funds toward a new city animal shelter, Councilman Wadsworth expressed his thanks to local students who have so enthusiastically supported his "pet project" – and reprimanded big businesses that have not.

"Of the five biggest [donation] checks that we've taken in," said Wadsworth, "I believe that three of them have come out of the schools. I'm going to say this publicly: It really disappoints me how companies like General Motors ... and Northwest Airlines ... and [other] big companies in our town really haven't dug into their pockets and given much at all. ...

"You know," Wadsworth continued, "these companies come here, month after month and year after year, and they tell us the same thing ... 'We really want to get involved with your town.' But, they really don't. They want to build, get rich, and run away."

Wadsworth thanked Camilleri for her efforts, saying, "This young lady from the high school is a fine example of people in our town that care about our town. ... Kristina, I really appreciate what you're doing."

Gear Home Briefly, Then Gone Again

Although Council chairman Randy Gear has been excused from many recent meetings in order to fulfill his obligations with the U.S. Army Reserve, a brief visit home allowed him to take his accustomed place at the center of the table for the meeting of March 22.

Sergeant First Class Gear, who has been training soldiers for overseas duty, just completed stints at Indiana's Camp Atterbury and Kentucky's Fort Knox, and has since returned for further duty at Wisconsin's Fort McCoy. □

The Romulus News

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Woodson Named District AD

The Romulus Community Schools has selected Mark Woodson as the district's new athletic director. Woodson – whose appointment will become effective on July 1, 2004 – will succeed current AD Jesse Meriweather, who is retiring.

"Woodson has a distinguished record in athletics," said Dick Kruse, the district's director of public relations. "He played collegiate football at Wayne State University, and played professionally for the Toronto Argonauts and the Orlando Renegade. His collegiate football coaching résumé includes assistant coaching assignments at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan, as well as summer camp work at Northwestern University.

"Woodson also comes to his new position with prep experience as an assistant football/JV basketball coach at Robichaud High School and a five-year career as head coach of the Romulus Eagles," Kruse continued. "His 1998 and 1999 Romulus teams qualified for the state playoffs, and he was voted Regional Associated Press Coach of the Year in 1997 and 1998."

Among the star players whom Woodson has coached are Fred Russell (Romulus/Iowa), who had the second highest rushing yards per game in the



Mark Woodson

Big 10 last season, and Tyrone Wheatley (Robichaud/Michigan), who currently plays for the Oakland Raiders of the National Football League.

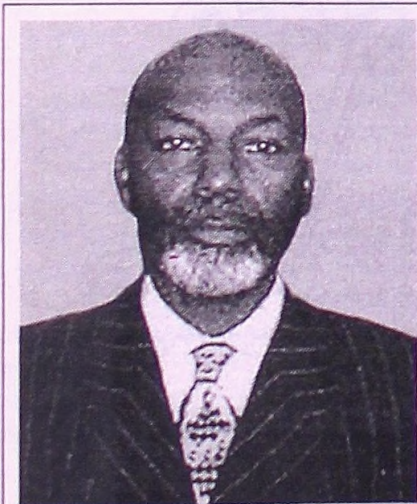
"I will place emphasis on maximizing student potential by adopting the virtues of self-discipline, social maturity, mental/physical conditioning, and a positive attitude," said Woodson, who holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from Wayne State University and a master's in kinesiology/sports management from the University of Michigan. □

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New Industrial Tech Teacher

Romulus Community Schools public relations director Richard Kruse has announced the appointment of Kyle Rairigh as Romulus Middle School's new industrial technology teacher. Kruse explained that Rairigh replaces Frank Zarzycki, who recently retired from the district.

"Rairigh is a *cum laude* graduate of Northern Michigan University," where he majored in industrial arts and physical education," the PR director noted. "He did his student teaching in Cedarville, and also helped out as an assistant coach for the school's basketball



Kyle Rairigh

and track teams."

Rairigh was very active in school activities during his prep years at Pickford High School. Besides playing on the football, basketball, baseball, and track teams, he also played in the band and was a member of the woodworking club. Currently, he enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time.

Rairigh says he is really looking forward to working with the students at Romulus Middle School. □

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Head Start Reading



The Romulus Head Start program's recent Reading Night featured guest readers such as Beverly Jenkins (back, left) and Paulette Crane (back, right). Attentive and appreciative listeners included (from left) Jasmine Herrington, Deon Nelson, Marquise Legion, David Ford, and Jason Ford.



Head Start director Carolyn O'Bannon (center), who said she was very pleased with the Reading Night turnout, greeted nutritionist Amy Kosiba and Romulus Police Officer Tom Ellis, another of the evening's guest readers.

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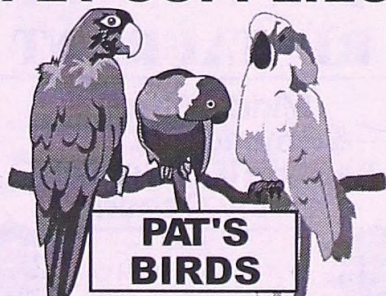
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School/Community Committee Stresses New Parent Induction

The Romulus Community Schools' School/Community Committee recently met to discuss the progress of its new parent induction program. Committee members feel that, since each Romulus school has a significant number of new enrollments each year, an effective parent and student orientation program would be beneficial.

Committee chair Phyllis Adkins noted that there was "good response" to the parent involvement section of the district's welcoming video as well as the portion dealing with the district's progressive discipline policy, which was helpful to both parents and students.

Adkins also announced that each of the district's schools has joined the National Network of Partnership Schools, sponsored by Johns Hopkins University. This partnership program stresses six types of parent involvement that can help students and schools meet important educational goals:

- parenting,
- school/home communication,
- volunteer work,
- learning at home,
- decision-making, and
- community collaboration.

Adkins concluded the meeting by reviewing efforts to contact local legis-



School/Community Committee members who recently met at Barth Elementary to discuss parent involvement strategies included: (from left) front – Reverend Rita Talley, Danielle Funderburg, Janice Barden, Cindy Helms, and Cecelia Burcroff (with Nicholas Burcroff); back – Sally Berger, Phyllis Adkins, Marge Olson, Ken Mientkiewicz, Dorothy West, Cheryl Brackney, Wendy Blohm, Gretchen Notaro, and Dee Raub.

lators about current educational funding issues. She stressed that this is an

important effort, and that legislators must understand that there are some struc-

tural problems in the current system for financing education in Michigan. □

High School's French Club Tours Quebec City and Montreal

Rosa Russenberger, French teacher at Romulus High School, was very excited about her students' recent five-day tour of Quebec City and Montreal, Canada. Twenty-one students took part in the tour chaperoned by Russenberger and science teacher Darrel Kenyon.

Students sampled both educational and recreational aspects of the region. Jeff Cochran, for example, raved about the dogsled run at Sugar Shedd outside Quebec City, where teams of six dogs pulled sleds, holding two students each, along a track through the woods.

Maureen McGlynn liked the tube runs at the Village de Sport.

Adam DeLay – who thought that everything at Notre Dame Basilica was "really awesome" – also enjoyed Montreal sites such as St. Ann's Basilica, the Museum of Archeology (where students got to view the ancient foundation of the city), the Olympic Stadium (which featured the world's tallest inclined tower), and the Biodome (which featured four bio-systems: Polar World, Tropical Forest, Laurentian Forest, and the St. Lawrence Ecosystem).

Sara Cholette enjoyed Quebec City sights such as the Stewart Museum and Fort (which housed various ships and gave the students an opportunity to dress up as French Navy seamen), and was also impressed with Montmorrency Falls and the tremendous banks of ice that



Taking part in the French students' recent trip to Canada were: (from left) front – Sara Cholette, Nicole Radford, Joshua Dew, and Sarah Johnson; second row – Landria Buckley, LaShonda Windham, Kim Wilson, Natalie Watt, Jazmine Bennett, and Lauren Fox; third row – Sara Hurt, Tiffany Motsch, Amanda Bailey, Maureen McGlynn, Britney Alley, Jeff Cochran, and French teacher Rosa Russenberger; back – Tiffany Sucharski, science teacher/chaperone Darrel Kenyon, Adam DeLay, Jonathan McLachlan, David Cain, and Darnell Anderson. (Not pictured: Shannon Kowalski and Ben Hohman.)

build up there in the winter.

Russenberger was especially happy

to report that her students displayed excellent citizenship during the trip, and

represented both Romulus and the USA in a very favorable manner. □

Exploring Cultures



(From left) Romulus High School alumna Jessica Austria Graham, a fourth-grade teacher at Merriman Elementary, showed daughter Kaylee and husband Rob (also an RHS alum) her Australia exhibit for the school's Multicultural Celebration.



RHS alum Lori McLean Freeman (second from left) and her children, Caitlee and Mathew, enjoyed Merriman second-grade teacher Karen Terwilliger's Mexico exhibit.



Others taking in the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Merriman Multicultural Celebration – which also featured displays on the Brazilian rain forest, Ghana, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, and Puerto Rico – included the Holley family: (from left) James Jr., Brandy, Robin, and James Sr.

Community Calendar

- **St. Aloysius Hosts Friday Fish Dinners** – St. Aloysius Catholic School is inviting the public to attend its final Friday Fish Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. (or until sold out) on Friday, April 2. The menu features fish or shrimp, macaroni & cheese or garlic potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, roll, and choice of dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens, or \$3 for children; kids under 2 eat free. The church is located at the corner of Neville and St. Aloysius streets in Romulus.
- **St. Paul Hosts Friday Fish Dinners** – St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is inviting the public to attend its final Friday Fish Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. on April 2. The church is located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston.
- **Rummage Sale at St. Aloysius** – St. Aloysius Catholic School will host a rummage sale fund-raiser on Friday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will take place in the barn next to the school, which is located at the corner of Neville and St. Aloysius streets in Romulus. For more information about donating items for the sale or renting a table (\$15) for a sale of your own, call Julie Wadsworth at the school: 734-941-3340.
- **Spring Craft Show** – The Romulus Progressive Club's Spring Craft Show will be held at Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga) on Saturday, April 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 734-941-3044 for information on booth space.
- **St. Paul Hosts Special Services** – St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston, invites the public to attend the following special services: **Maudy Thursday with Holy Communion** (April 8 at 7 p.m.), **Good Friday** (April 9 at noon and 7 p.m.), **Easter Sunrise with Holy Communion** (April 11 at 6:30 a.m.), and **Easter Morning Festival with Holy Communion** (April 11 at 10 a.m.).
- **Pentecostal Church Announces Service Times** – Reverend Arthur Willis and the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church – located at 35625 Vinewood (off Wayne Road just two blocks north of Ecorse Road in Romulus) – are hosting two Easter services (Sunday, April 11, at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.) and a special Easter program (10 a.m.). Everyone is welcome.
- **Magic Show Celebrates National Library Week** – In celebration of National Library Week, the Romulus Public Library (located at 11121 South Wayne Road) has planned a special appearance by magician Jason Hudy on Monday, April 19, from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Be prepared to learn new magic tricks and have a lot of fun! For more information, call 734-942-7589.
- **Chamber Luncheon** – J.R. Atiyeh, CFP from ChiroCare, will be the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's next business luncheon, to be held at noon on Tuesday, April 20, at the Double Tree Hotel (31500 Wick Road, Romulus). Tickets (\$13 for members; \$15 for nonmembers) must be purchased by 3 p.m. on Friday, April 16. For more information, call the Chamber office: 734-326-4290.
- **"Great Parents, Great Start" Reading Program** – The Romulus Public Library is planning a free "Great Parents, Great Start" story-time program for children (up to five years of age) and their parents/guardians. Parents may choose between evening sessions (7 p.m. Tuesdays from April 20 through May 25) and morning sessions (10:30 a.m. Thursdays from April 22 through May 27). Preregistration is required. Call 734-942-7589.
- **Freedom Weekend III** – The Freedom Institute is inviting the public to attend Freedom Weekend III – a weekend of edutainment! – from Thursday, April 22, through Saturday, April 24. The event, to be held at the Cobo Conference Center in downtown Detroit, will feature a host of programs, including a public policy luncheon (Thursday at 12:30 p.m.); a gospel concert (Thursday at 8 p.m.); expos and exhibits on jobs, homeownership, and health empowerment (Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.); a power economics symposium (Friday at 10 a.m.); a race-and-politics summit (Friday at 10 a.m.); personal finance seminars (Saturday at 10 a.m.), an African-American art fair (Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.); an African-American film festival (Saturday at 11 a.m.), and a national town-hall meeting, moderated by NAACP Image Award-winner Greg Mathis (Saturday at 5 p.m.). Senior citizens programs will be offered on Thursday; youth programs on Saturday. Cost for the entire conference (meals included) is \$140 per person. Thursday-only packages are \$85; Friday-only are \$95. For more information, call 313-533-5053, or visit freedominstitute-esp.org.

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State Officials Visit

In celebration of National Reading Month in March, several officials from the State of Michigan visited the Romulus Community Schools. The visit gave the officials an opportunity to view the district's \$844,000 Reading First program in action.

Faith Stevens, a consultant from Michigan Reading First, enjoyed her stop at Halecreek Elementary, where she read *Tops and Bottoms* to Cathy Kudra's kindergarten class. State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood and State Senator Raymond Basham also stopped in for observation – Hopgood at Barth and Romulus elementaries; Basham at Merriman. The legislators were impressed by the students' enthusiasm for the program as well as the

program itself, which features study tools such as word games, vocabulary drills, and animated computer lessons.

Romulus Reading First coordinator Betsy MacLeod was happy to report that the district is "right on schedule" with the program.

"We are meeting the State Reading First Objectives to this point," she said. "We will know better how we are doing when we compare this year's Iowa Test of Basic Skills scores to last year's."

According to MacLeod, the district's K-3 teachers continue to receive in-service instruction on the best methods for utilizing the phonics-based approach of the Reading First program. Students work on reading instruction for 2.5 hours each day. □



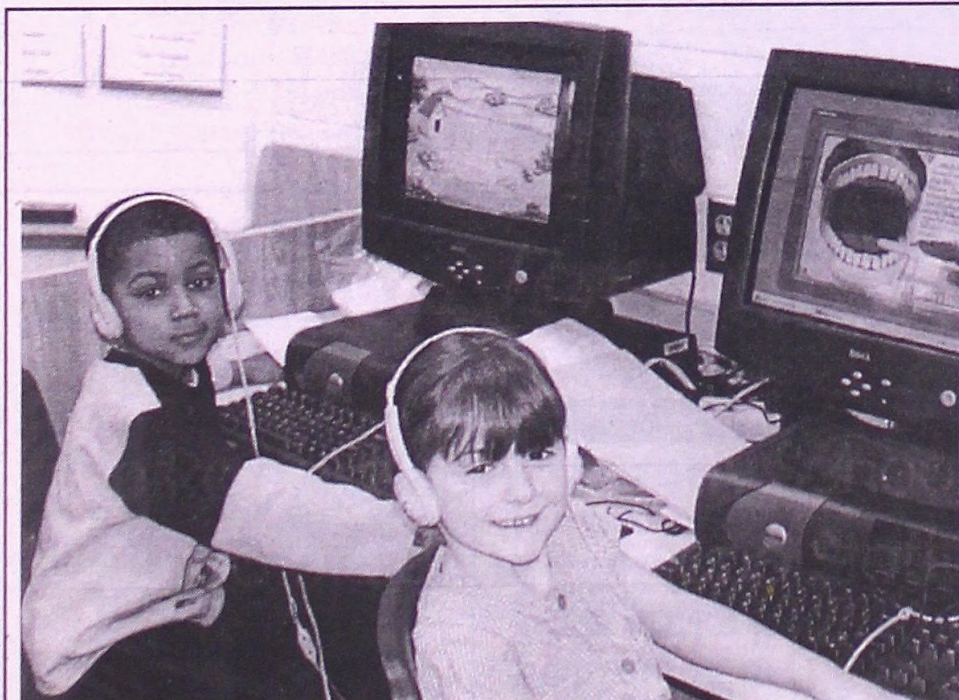
Michigan Reading First consultant Faith Stevens read *Tops and Bottoms* to Halecreek kindergartners.



Reading First coordinator Betsy MacLeod (center) continues to meet with the district's school reading coaches: (from left) Tiffany Markavich (Merriman), Barb Jaszcz (Cory), Lisa Zeleji (Wick), Pat Adams (Barth), Candy Walters (Halecreek), and Pia Chasney (Romulus).



State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (second from right) enjoyed a "word board" demonstration given by Romulus Elementary School students, including (from left) Megan Swangim, Jaylen Tate, Destiny Westley, and Brianna Madison.



Romulus Elementary students Darius Jackson (left) and Shyla Killen showed Representative Hopgood their computer reading lessons.



State Senator Raymond Basham talked to Merriman Elementary School students about the Reading First program.

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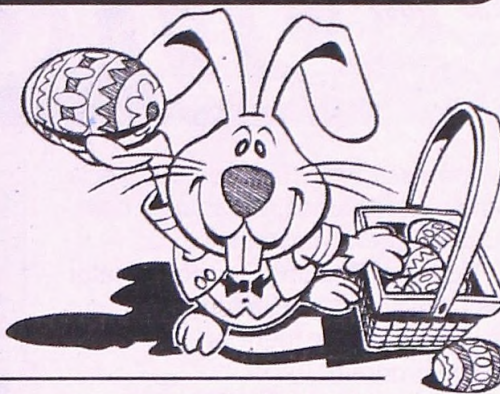
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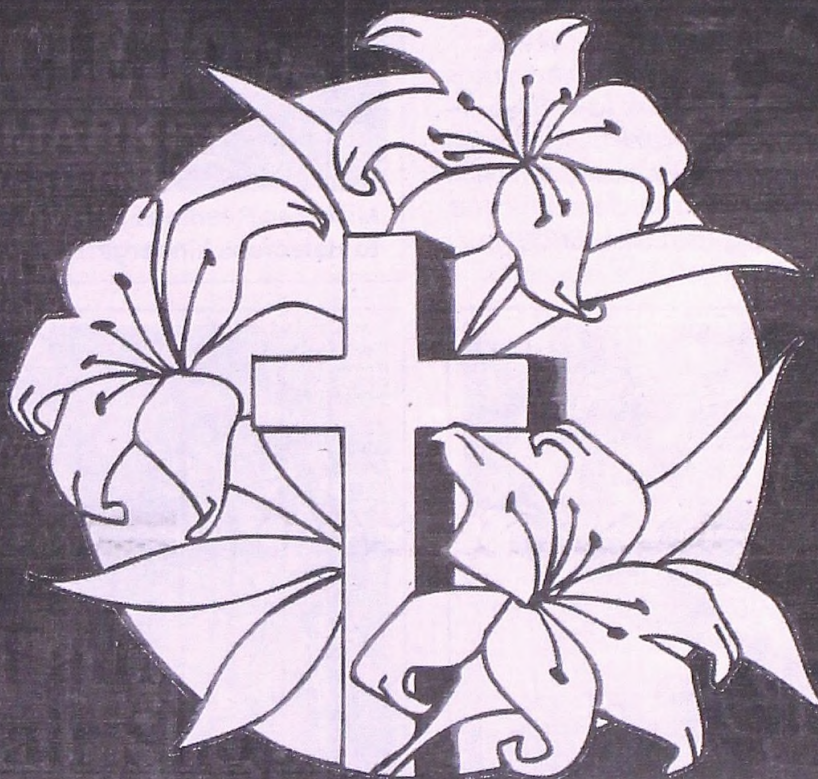
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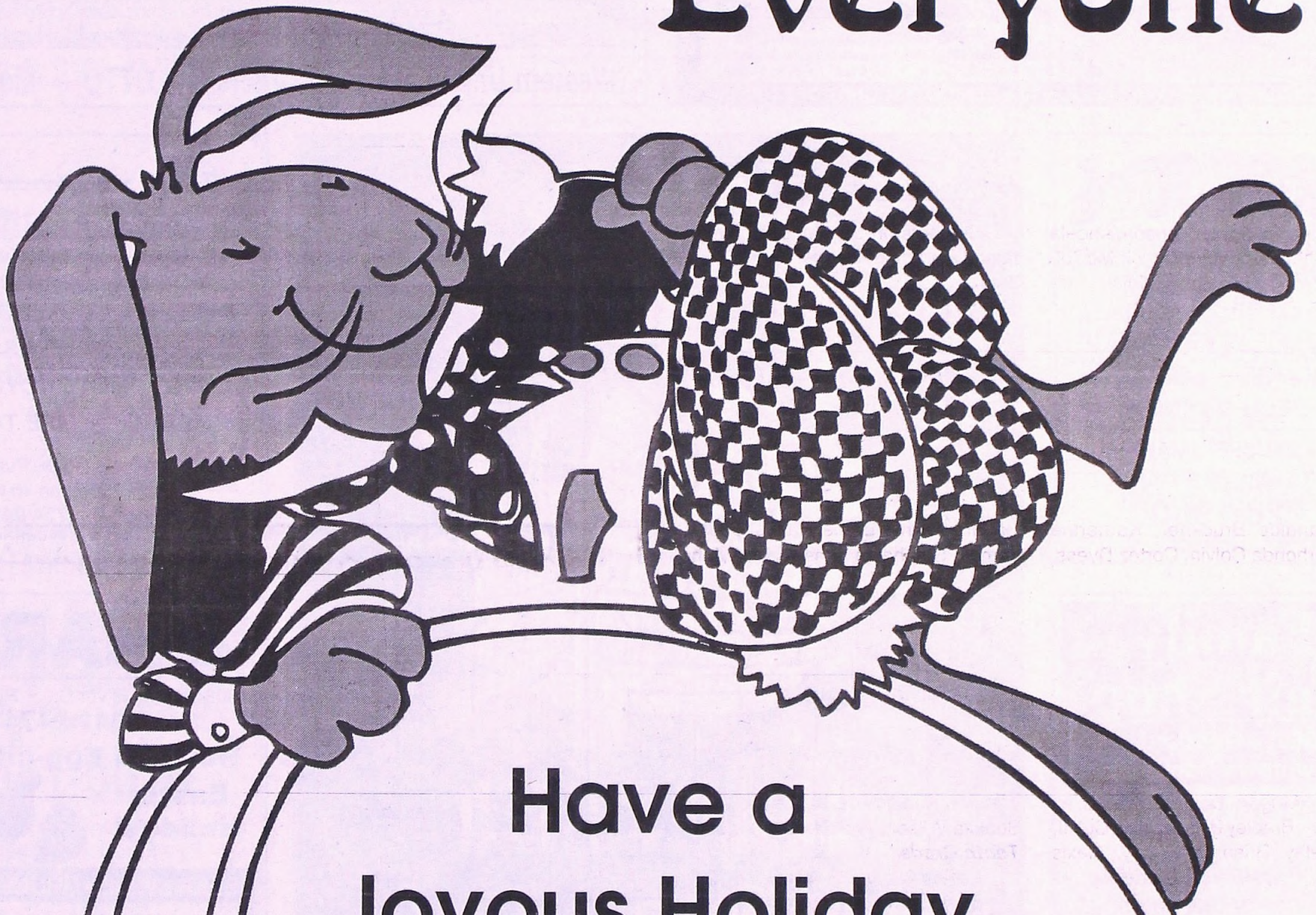
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The Romulus Community Schools
Board of Education and Staff

Romulus High School Students Honored for Academics

Congratulations to the following Romulus High School students who made the honor roll for the fourth marking period of the 2003-2004 school year.

ALL A's

Students on the All A's List maintained a grade point average of 4.00 or above.

Ninth Grade

Jennifer Dick, Jessica Dick, Aurielle McCauley, Jessica Mills, and Brittany Wright.

Tenth Grade

Carla Anderson and Jonathan McLachlan.

Eleventh Grade

Jazmine Bennett, Ronnie Brown, and Avery Stephenson.

Twelfth Grade

Natalie Blake, Toni Gibson, Angela Lukas, Cherise Lundy, Patrick McColum, LaJoya Orr, Kristina Rafalski, Britany Sawdy, Sara Schulz, and Ryan Tackett.

PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL

Students on the Principal's Honor Roll maintained a grade point average of 3.50 to 3.99.

Ninth Grade

Maurice Anderson, Brieana Bray, Courtnee Briggs, Jason Britton, Kerri Britz, Candice Bruckner, Katherine Cobb, Larhonda Colvin, Cortez Dyess, Shalayia Frye, Tiffany Gray, James Hayes, Edwina Jackson, Joy Jendritz, Mercedes Mattox, Tamila Myles, Tiffany Penn, Jetaun Robinson, Amna Sheikh, Cedric Smith, Jesse Spicer, Kevin Stobbe, Erika Wasson, and Theresa Windom.

Tenth Grade

Kathryn Appel, Samantha Arnett-Butscher, Megan Bearman, Lindsay Beregsasy, Bradley Bills, Katrina Cutliff, Adam Delay, Brian DeMoisey, Alexis Fondren, Jessica Fox, LáBritney Franklin, Doloris Garry, Dean Gilbert, Carl Gillespie, Lindsay Green, Timothy Griggs, Samina Haq, Nodja Harris, Ashley Horyn, Ron Kreutzer, Jennifer Lammers, Courtney Macdougall, Justin Maupin, Tiffani McCloud, Joy McWilliams, Ashley Moss, Amanda Nowicki, Anisa Rakic, Cecily Ricer, Patricia Silvey, LaTara Steele, Ashlee Wells, Megan Whalen, Amanda Willingham, and Jessica Workman.

Eleventh Grade

Kristen Atchley, Tiffany Block, Donald Brewer, Teela Carroll, Justin Chapman, Anica Coate, Levelle Devoe, Crystal Hahn, Paris Hawkins, Keith Holman, Emily Hornfeld, Connelly Hughes, Daniel Kinney, Mallori Losacco, Antoinette Nelson, Malcolm Rhodes II, Philip Roscoe, Megan Scott, Lindsay Sharp, Jessica Shelton, Matthew Steffani, Travis Steinbrink, Joann Tieppo, Samuel Tilton, Kelvin Valentine, Brytni White, Lashonda Whitehead, Danté Williams, William Williams, Kimberly Wilson, and Ashley Wright.

Twelfth Grade

Aamer Ahmad, Deborah Anderson, Kenneth Booker, Jessica Bright, Carla Broom, Ciera Clark, Ronald Coleman, Ronny Cornelius, Rhiannon Crawford, Jenessa Deshazor, Latoya Flint, Lauren Fox, Storee Garner, Sabrina Gomes, Stephanie Gurner, Christian Hadden, Justin Heins, Sarah Herbert, Jeffrey Hoffman, Roy Hollis, Sarah Lindroth, Victoria Lucaj, Michael Mancine, Matthew Mortzfield, Ashley Much, Hanya Ombima, Denisa Rakic, Tiffiney Ramsay, Cilia Sanchez, Christopher Speer, Shekiyah Taylor, Iesha Taylor, Darryl Vesey, D'Andre Walker, Isaiah Warren, Henry Wiggins, Reese Williams, and Jeremiah Yeager-Hudson.

HONOR ROLL

Students on the Honor Roll maintained a grade point average of 3.00 to 3.49.

Ninth Grade

Shawn Abney, Shon Aggison, Daniel Allen, Christopher Baker, Cassie Barnett, Andrew Boyd, Roderick Brown, Akeem Burkes, Kiara Carter, Carletta Carter, Roshawnda Caruthers, Walter Cholette, Daniel Cross, Stacy Davidson, Jessica Donald, Dekarele Eldridge, Yetunde Emanuel, Demaryst Garwood, Sandra Harris, Leslie Hayes, Jessica James, Stephanie Jensen, Lisa Johnson, Malicia Jones, Joseph Kiesznowski, Garrett Lefler, Joseph Lewis, Marco Little, Kaitlyn Lovenduski, Bianca McDavid, Tiffany McGhee, Maureen McGlynn, Lauren Nierman, Jena Paisley, Tajana Powers, Darius Price, Audrey Reed, Brittnee Shreve, Kevanna Smith, Monay Smith, Stacey Sparks, Tariq Stevenson, Patrick Sutter, Jaclyn Vanmeer, Dakota Watson, Kandice Wells, Daryl Wilson, Shakita Wilson, and Desirea Yates.

Tenth Grade

Ashley Austin, Ronald Baker, Kristina Ball, Merrika Brown, Landria Buckley, Joshua Carroll, Ronald Carter, Tiffany Claiborne, Carmen Coleman, Katrell Duncan, Kevin Ferguson, Brittney Garrison, Stephanie Gillham, Amber Gondek, Brittany Hampton, Nedra Harris, Michael Hudson, Jennifer Hunter, Erica Linton, Quinton Mark, Khristopher Marsh, Krystle McKay, Tiffany Motsch, Chrisma Nathaniel, Kristine Plank, Jonathan Rafalski, Timothy Reed, Joshua Rivera, Anne Ross, Thomas Rutherford, Kevin Smith, Mary Stewart, Dennis Suter, Alberta Taylor, Jeffrey Taylor, Lerodd Williams, Theresa Williams, and Brittani Zockheem.

Eleventh Grade

Latoya Allen, Janiece Armstrong, Denice Brock, Monika Burgess, Sara Cholette, Chrystal Coleman, Monica Cox, Carissa Cramer, Jeremiah Cross, Seylon Dudley, Alondra Femster, Jami Gibes, Wayne Gilbert, Ashley Glenn, Christopher Greene, Brittany Gregory, Katie Hale, Kevin Hamilton, Keith

Haynes, Shamara Hill-Harris, Benjamin Hohman, Ergys Hoxha, Alicia Johnson, Janet Johnson, James Kendrick, Candace Lawrence, Danielle Leader, Sherita Leverett, Jese Lowrey, Elizabeth Mongrain, Shonta Morgan, Anjelique Moss, Brandon Patrick, Michelle Patterson, Anthony Price, Courtney Putman, Michael Sanders, Sawaira Sheikh, Danielle Simmons, Shauntya Simon, Tiffany Smith, Paul Stanford, Paulette Stanford, Crystal Stewart, Zachary Swartz, Jeremy Thomason, Alecia Walls, Phillip Warren, Natalie Watt, Lashonda Windham, and Keshia Wright.

Twelfth Grade

Darnell Anderson, Jason Andrews, Charmaine Atkins, Jamar Bird, William Boddie, Richard Broderick, Joshua Brown, Charnita Butler, Cassie Caldwell, Demarvelous Carter, Brian Cochran, Jerry Collie, Elliott Craig, Richard Davis,

Karra Duncan, Amanda Eldridge, Tia Flemings, Jessica Frost, Stacey Gilbert, Ariola Gjickola, Angelitia Gray, Terry Harper, Shaenna Kettlewell, Aaron King, Kevin Kucharski, Dominique Larry, Patrick Miller, Krystal Oliver, Nereida Pena, Kristi Rice, Justin Rooding, Adrian Simmons, Alicia Sims, Melissa Smith, Karron Smith, Aaron Smith, Patrecia Sucharski, Jon Taylor, Rebecca Thornton, Molly Tuttle, Justin Varga, Kiva Watkins, Thomas Watt, Princess Williams, Jurbar Williams, and Audrey Yates.

Editor's note: The Romulus News accepts honor rolls, citizenship rolls, and perfect-attendance lists from all schools attended by Romulus residents. To submit your school's list(s), fax them to 734-992-2052 or mail them to P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

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- Substitute Bus Drivers (\$12.67 per hour), and
- Substitute Cafeteria Workers (\$8.90 per hour).

For further information, or to submit an application, please contact receptionist Chris Harris at the district's administrative offices, located at 36540 Grant Road in Romulus, Michigan. Call 734-941-1600.

Publish: April 2, 2004

ROMULUS HEAD START

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PUBLIC NOTICE: STUDENT REGISTRATIONS

Romulus Head Start is now accepting registrations for the 2004/2005 school year. Please bring the following items to complete the registration process:

- income verification for 2003 (acceptable documentation: 1040 Tax Form prepared by a certified tax preparer, W2, FIA Benefit Letter, SSI Benefit Letter, or Letter of Foster Care Payments);
- birth verification;
- immunization records;
- health insurance card;
- proof of residency; and
- name and address of child's doctor, emergency contacts, and parent(s) place of employment.

Note: To be eligible for registration, a child must be three years of age on or before December 1, 2004.

Please mention this advertisement when coming to enroll your child.

Thank you,
Romulus Head Start Staff

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REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 8, 2004

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, March 8, 2004, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Betty M. Lenossi.

Roll call showed Board members Lenossi, Cheryle Buckley, April Frayer, Michael Woods, Celeste Roscoe, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, and Niema White present. Administrators present were: Joel R. Carr, Superintendent; William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations; Thomas Dolan, Director of Curriculum; and Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

3/04/1 Moved by White supported by Mientkiewicz to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

3/04/2 Moved by Buckley supported by Frayer to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2004, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

RETIREMENT: Cathy Uhring, Teacher, Romulus High School, Effective May 1, 2004. (Last day worked: April 30, 2004.)

3/04/3 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Buckley that the Board of Education approve the retirement of personnel as submitted by Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT: Sharon Hall, Special Education Teacher, Romulus High School, Effective February 24, 2004.

3/04/4 Moved by Woods supported by Roscoe that the Board of Education approve the employment of personnel as submitted by Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT – FYI: Fay Gordon, Latchkey/Child Care Giver, Romulus Elementary School, Effective February 25, 2004.

RESIGNATION – FYI: Jennifer Alexander, Paraprofessional, Romulus Elementary School, Effective February 24, 2004.

Bills for Payment

3/04/5 Moved by Buckley supported by Frayer to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Board Presentation – Bullying

Mesdames Diane Golka, Sheila Stasak, Sue Mitchell, and Theresa Blizman appeared before the Board with a PowerPoint presentation on the Bullying Program at Barth Elementary.

Surplus Vehicles

3/04/6 Moved by White supported by Buckley that the Board of Education declare Bus #47 (1990 GMC/Wayne 36-passenger, 126,177 miles) and Bus #51 (1993 Bluebird TC2000 Special Needs Bus, 149,500 miles) as surplus. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Cedar Point Field Trip – Merriman

3/04/7 Moved by Woods supported by Roscoe that the Board of Education approve a Merriman Elementary School field trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park, Sandusky, Ohio, for Saturday, May 29, 2004, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m., at no cost to the district. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Cedar Point Field Trip – Halecreek

3/04/8 Moved by Woods supported by Buckley that the Board of Education approve a Halecreek Elementary School field trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park, Sandusky, Ohio, for Saturday, May 22, 2004, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m., at no cost to the district. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Student Appeal Disposition

3/04/9 Moved by Woods supported by Buckley that Student #20008685 be eligible for enrollment in the Romulus Alternative High School beginning February 24, 2004, under terms of strict probation and regular monitoring. The exclusion of Student #20008685 from attending Romulus High School will continue through the 2004–2005 school year. If student 20008685 demonstrates satisfactory behavior and progress while attending the Alternative High School, he will be considered for re-enrollment at Romulus High School for the 2005–2006 school year. Ayes: 6. Nays: 1 (Mientkiewicz). Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

There were no communications from the public.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) Michigan Financially Distressed School Districts; 2) Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Conference; 3) Thank You – Wrestling Coaches; 4) Correspondence – Donna Capron; 5) Communication – Sandra Tenney; 6) The Benefits of a Community College; 7) Romulus Middle School Newsletter; 8) The Talon; 9) Halecreek Elementary Newsletter; 10) Pharmacy Voucher Program; 11) Merriman Elementary School Newsletter; 12) Romulus Elementary School Newsletter; 13) Halecreek Student Newspaper; 14) Communication – State Department of the Treasury; 15) RHS Parent Newsletter; and 16) Superintendent's Evaluation.

Superintendent Carr informed the Board of Education that Romulus will not be hosting Driver's Education. He also informed the Board that Romulus will be involved in the Pharmacy Voucher Program. Superintendent Carr further informed the Board that, in reference to the communication from the State Department of the Treasury, Romulus has received \$1.7 million of the \$2 million owed.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mrs. Cheryle Buckley asked that a correspondence be forwarded to Ms. Donna Capron based on her letter concerning food/snacks at lunchtime. This will be turned over to a Board committee for review. Mrs. Buckley also asked if the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) will be mandatory at the high school level in order to graduate. Mr. Thomas Dolan, Director of Curriculum, stated that you do not need to pass the MEAP, you just need to take it.

Mrs. Niema White stated that March is Reading Awareness Month, and encouraged Board members to get out and read to elementary students. Mrs. White stated that a fair for early childhood development (ages 0 to 5) will be held at the Romulus Public Library on April 3rd. Please watch for further information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

3/04/10 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Roll call vote: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Woods, Buckley, Frayer, and Lenossi. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

3/04/11 Moved by Buckley supported by Mientkiewicz to convene into Regular Session. Roll call vote: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Woods, Buckley, Frayer, and Lenossi. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Regular Session at 7:32 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

3/04/12 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Frayer, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education



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Donors of \$25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

District Registers New Students



Karrie McDonald registered her daughter Kylie while big brother Christian looked on.

The Romulus Community Schools' annual Kindergarten Roundup, held on February 26, was eagerly attended by many parents and children. The future students went to their new elementary schools with "great expectations" for the years to come.

Karrie McDonald was among the many residents who enrolled a child during the Roundup. McDonald, who already has two older children attending Halecreek Elementary, registered her daughter Kylie for the 2004-2005 kindergarten program. She commented that she likes Halecreek because the staff is very caring.

Lanesia Chambers was another parent who attended the Roundup. Chambers, who enrolled her daughter Jordyn, said that she loves Halecreek because the kids learn so much and enjoy going to school there. She's certainly in a good position to know, since several generations of her family have attended the school since it first opened.

The Romulus Community Schools will continue to take applications for its Fall kindergarten programs at each of the district's six elementary schools. Officials strongly encourage those who have not already registered their children to do so as soon as possible.



Lanesia Chambers registered her daughter Jordyn.

Check It Out at the Library

The Romulus Public Library has a number of specialized collections for readers' enjoyment. Among the most notable is the McNaughton collection, an assortment of leased books that are ordered months before publication and that are often available concurrently with the books' first appearance in stores.

The Romulus Library receives six to eight new McNaughton titles each month. Depending upon their popularity, the books remain at the library for various lengths of time before being returned. Made up of both fictional and nonfictional selections, the McNaughton collection is shelved within the New Books area of the library in Aisle F. The books are easily recognized by the green MCN label on each one.

The library's current McNaughton selection includes the following books.

Baby ER by Edward Humes

Not many years ago, a baby born too early or too small usually died. Now, thanks to advances in medical science, even very tiny babies not only survive but often go home in their car seats to live normal, healthy lives.

This nonfiction book tells the fascinating stories of extraordinary healers, extraordinary babies, and extraordinary parents in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of California's Long Beach Memorial Hospital. Although the wonders of technology and skill are clearly explained in terms that a layperson can understand, it is the individual stories of the babies, their families, and the incredible love and courage involved that grab a reader.

Of course, some of these precious, fragile children will not make it, and others will be left with permanent damage and handicaps. Edward Humes does an excellent job of exploring not only the day-to-day reality of neonatology, but the difficult ethical, moral, and financial questions involved in deciding how far healers should go in trying to save these small lives.

Feathers Brush My Heart by Sinclair Browning

Around an Arizona campfire, the author told a story to her women friends. After her mother died, Sinclair Browning began to find white feathers in unlikely places. She believed they were messages of love from her mother, a once aspiring actress who did diaphragm exercises by blowing a white feather into the air and repeating the words, "I love you."

When the author finished her story, she discovered that many of her friends had similar stories of their own to tell. She began collecting the stories from women of many backgrounds and beliefs. This nonfiction book relates stories of mother-daughter relationships that are strong enough to transcend even death.

Rush Home Road by Lori Lansens

Addy Shadd is a tough old woman when she takes in the abused five-year-old left on the doorstep of her house trailer. As the two begin to form a strong relationship, Addy discovers that the child's presence brings up memories of her own past.

Addy recalls the Canadian town of her youth and its history of fugitive slaves in the 1800s. She remembers her bitter-sweet childhood, the special cake with candy rosebuds that she made for her daughter's birthday, the people who influenced her life, and many episodes in her past. As these memories return to Addy, she starts to make sense of her long and often hard life, and find the forgiveness she needs to finally make the journey home again.

Single Life by Nina Solomon

Grace's husband is prone to disappearing for days at a time – but, this time, his absence is prolonged. Grace deals with it by pretending he is still there and using subterfuge to fool her parents, the housekeeper, and her friends. Her efforts to make it appear as if her husband is still there are inventive and shot through with humor.

Although Grace does a great job of keeping up the pretense of marriage, it is not easy. Her life starts to spin out of control as she begins to realize that she is fooling herself most of all. She begins to face the fact that neither her husband nor her marriage is what she believed it to be.

Yukon Alone by John Balzer

This is a nonfiction account of one of the toughest adventure races in the world: the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race. The trail covers over a thousand miles of frozen rivers, icy mountain passes, and spruce forests in Alaska and the Canadian Yukon. It is a test of the skill and stamina of the men and women racers as well as the dogs in their teams.

Balzer lived, trained, and caroused with these intrepid participants for months before the race. The result is a day-to-day account that not only describes the work and the passion involved in the race, but offers insights into the bonds of trust and understanding between the mushers and the majestic dogs who are the true heroes of the race. Balzer describes some of the colorful personalities who have abandoned the comforts of the Lower 48 to live out life at a distant edge of the North American frontier.

* * *

Romulus Public Library – located at 11121 South Wayne Road, just south of Goddard – is open each Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 12 to 5 p.m.

For more information, please call 734-942-6852. □

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins in the downtown area, please call 734-955-4120.)

Free Tax Preparation

From 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday through April 14, the Romulus Senior Center will be offering free tax preparation services (by appointment only) to low-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and older). The service will also be available at Romulus Tower and Whispering Willows.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration. These materials will include:

- W-2 forms,
- Unemployment compensation statements,
- SSA-1099 interest/dividends statements,
- 1099R pension/annuity statements,
- forms showing income taxes paid,
- last year's tax forms.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call or stop in at the Center.

Movie Day

The Romulus Senior Center will be showing the animated comedy, *Shrek*, at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 23. To reserve your seat, contact the Center.

April Luncheon

The next of the Senior Center's monthly luncheons – set for Monday, April 12, at noon – will celebrate the Easter holiday. Special guest for the afternoon will be Mayor Alan Lambert, who will join luncheon attendees for a meal of "city chicken," roasted turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, fettucine with marinara sauce, green beans, waldorf salad, beverage, and dessert.

Cost is just \$7 per person. Register by Thursday, April 8, to reserve your seat.

Then and Now!

The Romulus Senior Center urges you to bring a current and past picture of yourself to enter its "Then and Now" contest, to be held during the Mother's Day Tea on Friday, May 21. Photos – which will be scanned and returned the same day – are needed as soon as possible.

For more information about the contest, contact the Center.

Club One Welcomes You!

Club One, a senior citizens' group that meets at the Romulus Senior Center each Tuesday at 11 a.m., will hold meetings on the following dates this month:

- April 6 (Easter luncheon at the Sportsmen's Den in Wyandotte);
- April 13 (meeting, birthday celebration, games, and bag lunch);
- April 20 (outing TBA); and
- April 27 (meeting, bingo, and bag lunch).

As always, new faces are welcome.

Senior Social Club Meets

The Romulus Senior Social Club, with a 2004 membership of 63, will hold an executive meeting at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 2. An additional meeting on Friday, April 16, at 2 p.m., will feature lunch, games, and prizes for all.

Annual dues are \$5 per person. Cost for the April 16 event is \$4 per person. Sign up with Ursula at the Center by Monday, April 12.

As always, new faces are welcome.

Identity Theft & Traffic Safety

At 10 a.m. on Friday, April 23, Detective Sergeant Jeff Lazarski and Officer Mike Grant will be at the Romulus Senior Center to discuss the topical issues of identity theft and traffic safety as they relate to senior citizens. Light refreshments will be served.

To help the Center prepare for the event, please preregister if you plan to attend.

Ask the City Attorney

City attorney Raymond Guzall will be at the Senior Center on Monday, April 26, to answer questions about the City of Romulus.

Program director Linda Norman urges those who plan to attend to submit possible questions to her well ahead of the event to give Guzall as much time as possible to perform any necessary research.

Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

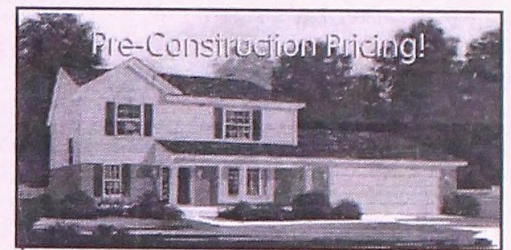
They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.),
- Club One (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- "game day" (Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.). □



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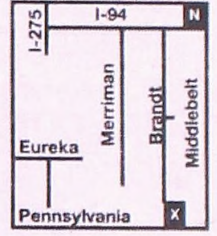


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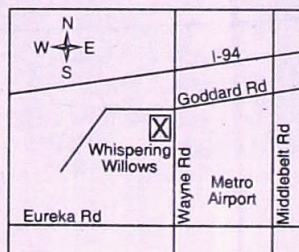
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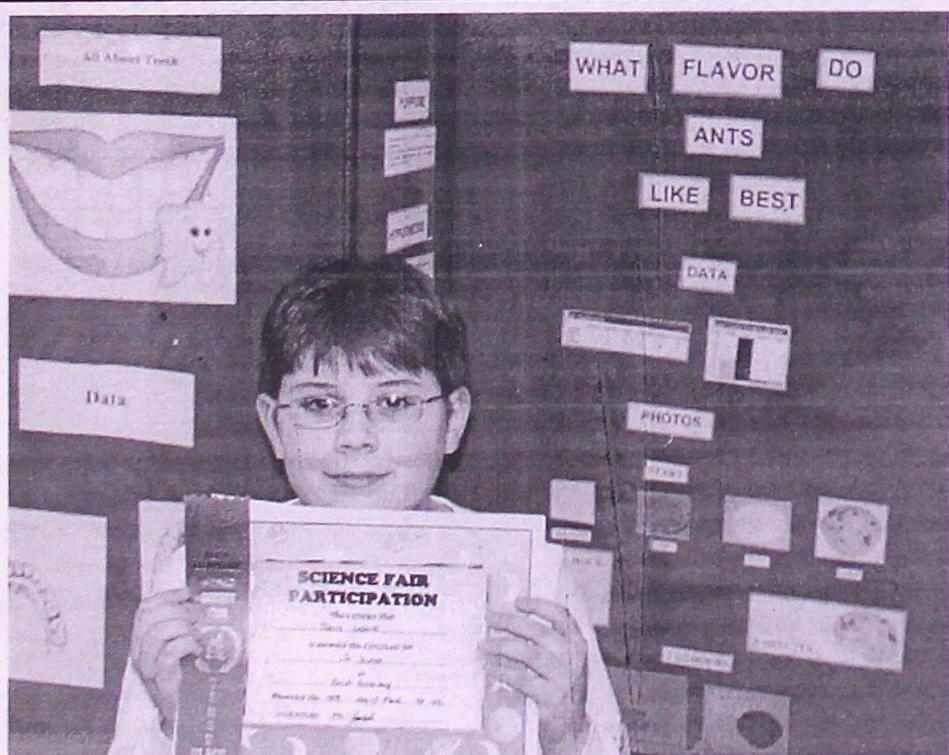
Contributions may be dropped off on:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Barth Science Fair



Jennifer Sylvester, a fifth-grader at Barth Elementary, proudly displayed her first-place Science Fair exhibit on the phases of the moon. Sylvester's exhibit and the one to her right (on volcanic activity) were typical of the entries in this event for fourth- through sixth-graders.



Fourth-grader Travis LaPorte proudly showed off his first-place science award for "What Flavor Do Ants Like Best?"

Obituaries

Richard L. Johnson, Jr.

Richard L. Johnson, Jr., of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, March 20, 2004, at the age of 38.

Born on Monday, November 15, 1965, the native of Monroe, Michigan, enjoyed dirt bikes, four-wheelers, snowmobiles, and work.

Among those surviving Richard are his wife, Velma M. (Jones) Johnson; 3 sons, Michael Alan, Jeremy Joseph, and Richard Lee III (all of Romulus); a daughter, Jessica Nicole Johnson (Romulus); his parents, Richard Lee Sr. and Betty (Burnett) Johnson (Peters-

burg, MI); 3 brothers, Linus (Heather) Johnson (Taylor, MI), James Johnson (Taylor), and Christopher Johnson (Petersburg); and a sister, Betty Sue (Leroy) Araida (KY).

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, March 24, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Paul Cowan (Wyandotte Assembly of God, Wyandotte, MI) officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Memorial tributes may be made to the Johnson family.

Mavis Hawn Thorne

Mavis Hawn Thorne of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, March 16, 2004, at the age of 80.

Mavis was born in Midkiff, West Virginia, on Tuesday, November 20, 1923. She and her husband – the late William Henry Thorne, who passed away on Tuesday, May 15, 2001 – raised racehorses for many years on their family farm in Romulus.

Surviving Mavis are a sister, Eloise (Ben) Muccioli (Livonia, MI); two sis-

ters-in-law, Nancy Reno (Romulus) and Dorene (Valerio) Maroncelli (Dearborn Heights, MI); and many nephews and nieces. Predeceasing her were her parents, Edwin & Evalena (Smith) Adkins, and a sister, Juanita.

Cremation rites have been duly accorded.

Interment of cremains was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). □



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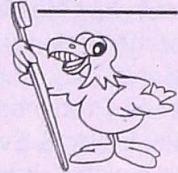
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